APPLIED FORESTRY NOTES

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

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PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES IN IDAHO AND MONTANA, 1936 1/

This is a preliminary statement 2/ of production by the lumber, lath and shingle mills of Idaho and Montana, based on returns from the lumber census conducted by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census. At the time of compilation reports had been received from all Montana and Idaho operators of record. However, all 1936 figures are preliminary and subject to revision in the final report to be published by the Bureau of the Census.

The total lumber cut reported for 1936 by 318 Idaho and Montana mills, each cutting 50 M feet or over during the year, amounted to 1,018,927 M feet, an increase of nearly 21 percent over the combined cut of these two states in 1935. The output of lath increased 20.5 percent from 55,908 M pieces in 1935 to 67,399 M pieces in 1936. In Montana, the production of shingles amounted to 4,170 squares, a gain of 17.1 percent over 1935. For Idaho, shingle production declined from 26,326 squares in 1935 to 17,924 squares in 1936. This decrease, amounting to 31.9 percent is largely accounted for by the loss in northern Idaho of one important shingle mill destroyed by fire in 1936.

1/ By C. N. Whitney, Special Agent, Bureau of the Census, and Associate Forester, Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

2/ Released for publication.

Statistics for 1936, with comparative figures for earlier years are given in the following tables:

Table 1. LUMBER CUT BY SPECIES, 1936, M FT. B.M.
(Mills cutting 50 M or over)

Kind of wood	Idaho	Montana	Combined cut	
			Volume	Percent
Idaho white pine	441,848	23,669	465,517	45.7
Ponderosa pine	173,964	130,307	304,271	29.9
Douglas fir	59,547	51,595	111,142	10.9
Western larch	23,787	74,241	98,028	9.6
Spruce	6,102	13,510	19,612	1.9
White fir	12,824	837	13,661	1.4
Cedar	3,119	100	3,219	0.3
Lodgepole pine	1,292	974	2,266	0.2
Hemlock	1,168		1,168	0.1
Cottonwood	43		43	-
Total	723,694	295,233	1,018,927	100.0
Lath, M pieces	53,918	13,481	67,399	
Shingles, squares	17,924	4,170	22,094	

Eighty-six percent of the lumber produced by the commercial mills of Idaho and Montana during 1936 was manufactured by 32 mills, each cutting 5,000 M feet or more. The balance of the cut of 1,018,927 M was reported by 286 mills of smaller capacity with output ranging from 50 M to 5,000 M feet for the year.

In addition to the mills cutting 50 M feet and upward 59 mills in Idaho and 72 Montana mills reported production amounting to less than 50 M each in 1936. The aggregate additional production by these small mills cutting principally to supply lumber needed by the operators for their own use, amounted to 1,233 M for Idaho and 1,633 M for Montana.

Table 2. COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION FOR 1936, 1935 and 1934, LUMBER CUT M FT. B.M.
(Mills cutting less than 50 M feet excluded)

State	1936	1935	1934	Percent of increase	
				1935-1936	1934-1935
Idaho	723,694	609,212	457,089	18.8	33.3
Montana	295,233	233,633	171,841	26.4	36.0
Combined cut	1,018,927	842,845	628,930	20.9	34.0

In 1936 for the first year since 1930, the total lumber cut of Idaho and Montana mills again exceeded a billion board feet. For the ten-year period 1921 to 1930, inclusive, 1921 was the only year in which the combined production of Idaho and Montana amounted to less than a billion feet board measure.